

United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 0225 Washington, DC 20250-0225

February 16, 2006

To Organizations That Conduct State or Regional Dairy Product Promotion, Research, or Nutrition Education Programs

Enclosed is an <u>Application for Initial or Continued Qualification of State or Regional Dairy Product Promotion, Research, or Nutrition Education Program</u> (Form DA-15-CG) for submission of program information and financial data for calendar year 2005. Please complete and return Form DA-15-CG (Attachment A), the survey, Sur-COR-05 (Attachment C), and required enclosures by <u>March 16, 2006</u>, to:

USDA, AMS, DAIRY PROGRAMS PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BRANCH STOP 0233, ROOM 2958-S 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-0233

In order for your program to continue its qualified status under the Dairy Promotion and Research Order, all pertinent information should be included when completing the application. Form DA-15-CG is available for completion on-line from the Promotion and Research Branch web page (www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/dairyrp.htm) or at the uniform resource locator on the enclosed security letter. The *Additional Instructions for Form DA-15-CG* are enclosed and have been slightly modified to include notes for on-line completion. There is no need to mail a hard copy of completed Form DA-15-CG if submitted on-line. However, Sur-COR-05 and any supporting documentation or schedules not attached during on-line submission (e.g., copy of annual report or annual audit) must be submitted by mail.

The information you provide will be aggregated with information from other qualified programs and included in USDA's "Annual Report to Congress on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program and the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Program." Information from individual qualified programs will be kept confidential to the extent allowable under the Freedom of Information Act.

It is the view of the Agricultural Marketing Service, which has the oversight responsibility for all commodity research and promotion programs, that the administrative expenses for such programs should be held to the lowest level necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the program. Also, it is essential that your organization have in place internal controls which assure that funds, property, and other assets are safeguarded against fraud, waste, and unauthorized use.

Please note that the Form DA-15-CG continues to account for income and expenditures associated with the Unified Marketing Plan (UMP) coordinated through Dairy Management Inc. Only those qualified programs participating in the UMP need to include the requested information as noted on the form and described in the additional instructions.

If you have any questions regarding the form, the survey, or their completion, please contact Michael Johnson, Promotion and Research Branch, at (202) 306-1747, by fax at (202) 720-0285, or E-mail to Michael.Johnson2@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Dana H. Coale /s/ Deputy Administrator Dairy Programs

Enclosures: Form DA-15-CG (Attachment A), Additional Instructions for Form DA-15-CG (Attachment B), Sur-COR-05 (Attachment C), Instructions for Completing Survey (Attachment D), and Security letter

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